

therefore is preferable on that score, and by general action does far better. It is done within two days. Scraping the membrane cannot be through its operation short of weeks.

A. STEVENS.

Buffalo, Jan. 1845.
—Am. Ag.

CULTIVATION OF THE GOOSEBERRY.

The tendency to mildew which attends the greater portion of our most valuable Gooseberries, has in a measure deterred many admirers of this most excellent fruit from pursuing its cultivation with that interest which otherwise they would give to it. That what we have to say, will if pursued, prove infallible in the successful growth of this fruit to perfection, we cannot avouch; yet we are ready to state that in our judgment as good fruit can be grown of the Gooseberry in this climate as in any other. Let us, at first, glance at the manner in which the bushels are usually grown, and that too in some gardens where we thought the cultivator *should* understand their cultivation. We find them placed in some portion of the ground where they are fully exposed to the sun and at the same time sheltered from a free current of air; the bush if cultivated at all, is grown with the branches forming at say six to eight inches from the ground, and in hard showers after a drought the fruit and branches become covered more or less with the earth bespattered by the fall of water. Very little, if any attention is paid to affording nourishment, essential to the formation of good berries in common soil, in shape of liquid manure.—Attention to pruning is seldom, if ever given to them, indeed it is generally thought that nothing is required to obtain the fruit except a tolerable soil. This is from the fact of the shrub being very hardy adapting itself and in almost any situation making wood and presenting a tolerable healthy appearance.

Permit us now to offer our opinion regarding their culture: first, select a soil neither stiff clay, nor loose sand, but of good, rich, deep mould, in a position where the midday sun will never reach. Plant your bushes three foot apart each way, train them into heads at least two feet from the ground, let the head be formed nearly round and open.

After the head is once formed, attend to the bush, from the time the blossom shows itself until the fruit is ripe, and whenever a branch is pushing forward to make wood nip the end with the finger, thus throwing all the juices into the formation of the fruit, beside keeping the bush more open to the air; with the hoe dig well among their roots, being careful not to break them but yet to keep the earth loose and moist. As often as once a week from the time the fruit sets until ripe bestow a watering of liquid manure upon the soil, and use the hoe directly after it. In pruning let it be borne in mind that the Gooseberry produces fruit on the wood not only of the preceding summer's growth but also on spurs from old wood. The wood of the last past year however producing

the larger berry, if possible to preserve a rightly formed head, it should be so done; no bearing wood branches should be nearer than six inches of each other, and the shoots should never be more than twelve buds in length. Where old bushes have long remained, if not convenient to transplant to another position, (and for this year the season is now too far advanced) take away the earth from about the roots and shorten in all the larger ones by cutting to at least one foot each in length, this will cause them to form new spongioles in great numbers and if the dressing of liquid manure is given as directed, they will afford a vast increase of nourishment to the plant. Should any appearance of mildew become visible, sprinkle the bushes with weak lime water and scatter lime and sulphur underneath upon the ground. If your bushes are now placed where they are fully exposed to direct heat of midday suns, erect some temporary shade, or plant running beans and train them up as shades.

The origin of the name Gooseberry has been accounted for in various ways, and the number of names by which it is known throughout Europe shows that it has been long and extensively cultivated. Rogers says that, "in some counties in England, it is called faberry, in others frabes, or thapes, while yet in others it bears the name of Carberry, in Scotland it is called grozer or grozet, evidently a corruption of the french name groseille. One writer thinks it derives its name from having been used as a sauce for geese while green, another from its resemblance to the gorse, or whin bush." It is a native of most countries of Europe, and is found wild in many parts of the United States.

The number of varieties are now increased to several hundreds, yet in 1743 there were but six or seven sorts admitted as valuable. In Lancashire, England, their cultivation is a matter of great import, and regular shows of Gooseberries alone are held; with us it will probably never become a fruit for extensive market culture, but on a small scale with attention, we think, it can be made to produce fine and perfect fruits.—*Cleveland Hor. Mag.*

To make Whale-Oil Soap for washing Fruit Trees.—Take 18 lbs. potash and 30 lbs. of foot oil and put in a barrel. Every other day pour upon the mixture 18 quarts boiling water, stirring it every day for a few minutes. When the barrel is filled up with water the soap will be fit for use. Now put about 4 gallons of soap into a hogshead of 150 gallons of water, and apply the suds to the trees by aid of the garden engine. This application is one of the best destroyers of insects known, and at the same time it is in excellent stimulant to the growth of all vegetation.